AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A hydrotalcite intercalated by silica.

23. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, comprising at least one divalent cation~~, optionally Mg, Ni, Zn or Co~~, and at least one trivalent cation~~, optionally Al, Ga, Fe or Cr~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 23, having a divalent cation/trivalent cation molar ratio of between 1 and 8~~, optionally between 2 and 6~~.

25. (Previously Presented) A magnesium aluminum hydrotalcite intercalated by silica.

26. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 25, having an Mg/Al molar ratio of between 1.5 and 5~~, optionally between 2 and 4~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, comprising silica essentially~~, optionally solely~~, intercalated between its layers.

28. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 27, having a Si/trivalent cation~~, optionally Si/Al~~, molar ratio equal to 1.

29. (Previously Presented) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, further comprising in addition to the silica intercalated between its layers, silica at its surface.

30. (Currently Amended) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 29, having a Si/trivalent cation, ~~in particular Si/Al,~~ molar ratio of greater than 1~~, optionally of greater than 2~~.

31. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an intercalated hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, comprising a ~~stage~~ step of simultaneous ~~addition,~~ adding to a vessel heel formed of water:

(a) either of (1) a solution comprising salts of at least one divalent cation~~, optionally Mg, Ni, Zn or Co~~, and of at least one trivalent cation, ~~optionally Al, Ga, Fe or Cr,~~ or of (2) two solutions, one comprising a salt of a divalent cation, ~~optionally Mg, Ni, Zn or Co,~~ and the other comprising a salt of a trivalent cation, ~~optionally Al, Ga, Fe or Cr,~~

(b) of a silicate solution, ~~optionally an alkali metal silicate solution, or,~~ and

(c) of a basic agent solution,

in order to obtain the hydrotalcite.

32. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the duration of the simultaneous addition is between 30 and 90 minutes.

33. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 32, wherein the temperature during the simultaneous addition is maintained between 20 and 40° C.

34. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein, on conclusion of the simultaneous addition, the hydrotalcite obtained is heated, optionally between 80 and 95° C., for 1 to 3 hours.

35. (Withdrawn) A polymer or co-polymer composition, comprising as a filler, at least one hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22.

36. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polymer or co-polymer has at least one glass transition temperature of between -150 and +300° C.

37. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35, based on at least one thermoplastic elastomer.

38. (Withdrawn) The polymer composition as claimed in claim 35 further comprising at least one coupling agent and/or at least one coating agent.

39. (Withdrawn) A finished article based on at least one composition as defined in claim 35.

40. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 23, wherein said at least one divalent cation is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ni, Zn and Co, and said at least one trivalent cation is selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, Fe and Cr.

41. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 23, having a divalent cation/trivalent cation molar ratio of between 2 and 6.

42. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 25, having an Mg/Al molar ratio of between 2 and 4.

43. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 22, wherein silica is solely intercalated between its layers.

44. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 28, wherein the trivalent cation is Al.

45. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 30, having a Si/trivalent cation molar ratio of greater than 2.

46. (New) The hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 30, wherein the trivalent cation is Al.

47. (New) A process for the preparation of an intercalated hydrotalcite as claimed in claim 31, wherein when said at least one divalent cation is Mg, Ni, Zn or Co, and said at least one trivalent cation is Al, Ga, Fe or Cr, and wherein the silicate solution is an alkali metal silicate solution.